

Retrace Vestal's Gap Road back in front of the Lanesville House and toward the Visitor Center until you reach the fence opening near the pond.

At this point you may choose to hike up to the Guilford Signal Station site (a .81 mile hike up and back to the Visitor Center) or return directly to the Visitor Center .

If you choose to Return to the Visitor Center, stop outside, to the right of the building, to read the interesting story of the Guilford Signal Station on the Civil War Trails sign.

Optional hike up Little Stoney Mountain.

Just after you pass through the fence, turn right. Follow the white blazes (rectangles on trees) along the back side of the fence and on up the mountain. You will cross three trails (purple-blazed, orange-blazed and blue-blazed) as you continue up the mountain. Keep following the white blazes of the Little Stoney Mountain Trail. At 442 feet, this hill doesn't quite qualify as a mountain; the name came from a 1779 survey map. The round stones, or cobbles, resulted from wave action ten thousand years ago, when the ancient Potomac River washed against this hill.

Benches and a view of the Blue Ridge await you at the top of the mountain. The Guilford Signal Station stood atop this hill during the Civil War. On clear days



Sugarloaf Mountain in Maryland stands alone to the north. Moving toward the west along the ridge, the Catoctin Mountains in Maryland, Harper's Ferry, West Virginia and the mountains and gaps of the Virginia Blue Ridge are visible. In earlier times American Indians used this hill as a promontory, scouting for visiting tribes, hunting for game, and seeking stones for tool-making.

Return to the Visitor Center—Follow the white blazes, taking the trail to the right as you leave the benches. When you come off the hill and leave the old hardwood forest, the trail turns to the right. Keep following the white blazes. This trail will bring you back behind the Visitor Center.

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he Guilford Signal Station, Virginia Civil War Trails interpretive sign is located straight ahead, as you come back to the open field, at the end of the native tree garden. (Keep the tree garden to your right and amphitheater to your left.)



We hope you enjoyed this opportunity to explore Claude Moore Park's story of the past.



Claude Moore Park

Lanesville Area Walking Tour



Claude Moore Park
21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road
Sterling, VA 20164

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The park Visitor Center opened in November 1998. Explore this building daily, 9 AM-5 PM. Detailed park information and maps are available along with history displays, a hands-on nature area, rotating monthly exhibits, live animals, a field guide reference library and childrens' library.



Walk straight across the parking lot from the Visitor Center through the pathway to Pavilion #1. Stop at the historic roadway.

Vestal's Gap Road was created by American Indians as a route for trade and hunting. The availability of water from springs (the ponds are a 20th century addition), stones for tool-making, and large animals made this a reliable route to the Potomac. The name Potomac means "where the goods come in." One wonders if those goods came down this road.



Walk east (left as you entered the roadway) along Vestal's Gap Road, stopping at each interpretive sign.

The Vestal's Gap Road map highlights the route from the port of Alexandria to the mountains and Vestal's Ferry over the Shenandoah River.

George Washington documented many trips on this road in his journals. As a young surveyor, just 17 years old, he became very familiar with the wilderness here. This experience made him Governor Dinwiddie's choice to carry a letter of protest to the contested French settlements in 1753. His subsequent trips in 1754 and

1755 underscore the important role this road played in the French and Indian War. Approximately 1,000 British Red Coats and Colonial soldiers from Virginia and North Carolina marched down this road.

Sir Peter Halkett's Regiment of the **Braddock Campaign** passed through here on April 29, 1755. Madame Browne's nursing unit moved through on June 3, 1755 and included "one Officer, my Brother, self and Servant, 2 Nurses, 2 Cooks and 40 Men to guard us, 12 Waggon with the sick, Lame, and Blind, my Waggon in the Rear." Those were busy days along this colonial pathway as soldiers, cannons, and support units traveled through.

Frogshackle Log Cabin, on your right, was built in the Ryan neighborhood of Ashburn in the mid-1800s. Dr. Moore found it collapsed on property he had purchased. Dr. Moore was in his 80s when he moved the logs here and rebuilt the cabin. The park Nature Center is located in the cabin.



Walk to the front of the large, white Lanesville House.

The interpretive sign on the lawn in front of the **Lanesville House** and the **National Register** plaque on the front porch introduce this Revolutionary War-era home and Ordinary.

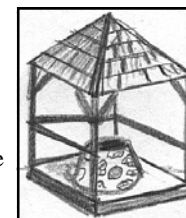


Walk to the right side of the house.

An artist's drawing and color-coded floor plan help us visualize the **how the house expanded** over 200 years.

Continue around to the back of the house, to the right of the handicap ramp.

The first interpretive sign shares the **families of Lanesville**. The second sign introduces the **outbuildings** of this homestead. The **well** behind you was built by Dr. Moore, note the cement is a fairly recent building material. Earlier wells served the families and travelers of long-ago.



Walk across the lawn to get a closer look at the barn, tenant house, and schoolhouse.

The one-room **Bridges' Schoolhouse** is undergoing restoration, with the help of the Friends of Claude Moore Park. An archaeological dig and restoration plan are complete. Come back and check out its progress.



Walk between the schoolhouse and the outhouse.

The interpretive sign near the fence introduces **Vestal's Gap Road in the 1800's**. The portion of the old road most like the road of the 1700s stretches across the park to the east from this point for two tenths of a mile. We encourage you to walk this ancient section to reflect on times past. **Benches** are located partway along the path.